

## MULTIMODAL:

<b>Dow Jones Transportation Index</b>	Dow Jones Transportation index <b>decreased 7.4%</b> during the month of December 2015. <i>(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of December 10<sup>th</sup> thru January 10<sup>th</sup>)</i>
<b>NASDAQ Transportation Index</b>	NASDAQ Transportation Index <b>decreased 6.2%</b> in December 2015. <i>(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of December 10<sup>th</sup> thru January 10<sup>th</sup>)</i>
<b>DOT Freight Transportation Index</b>	The USDOT's freight transportation services index <b>fell 1.0%</b> in November 2015. The index's reading of 122.3 was <b>1.1% below the all-time high</b> of 123.7 in November 2014. (Source: US DOT)
<b>Cass Freight Index</b>	The December shipments index <b>decreased 4.9%</b> from the previous month and <b>decreased 3.7%</b> year-over-year. The December expenditures index <b>decreased 2.7%</b> for the month, and <b>decreased 5.2%</b> year-over-year. The declines are not unusual for December. (Source: Cass Information Systems   Cassinfo.com) <i>(Based upon transportation dollars and shipments of Cass clients comprised of over 400 shipping companies)</i>
<b>Import Volumes</b>	In November, the U.S. <b>imported \$183.5 billion</b> of cargo, <b>decreasing 1.97%</b> from October 2015 and the <b>lowest level since February 2011</b> . (Source: US Census)
<b>Export Volumes</b>	In November, the U.S. <b>exported \$122.2 billion</b> of cargo, <b>decreasing 1.13%</b> from October 2015 and the <b>lowest level since June 2011</b> . (Source: US Census)
<b>Import &amp; Export Price Index</b>	U.S. import prices <b>decreased 1.2%</b> in December, after decreasing 0.5% the previous month. A decrease in fuel prices drove the December decline. U.S. export prices <b>decreased 1.1%</b> in December, after a 0.7% decline the previous month. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)
<b>E-Commerce</b>	E-Commerce revenue was up 16% in November 2015 compared to November 2014. Mobile shopping (phones and tablets) accounted for 30% of online shopping, up from 25% in November 2014. (Source: Custora E-Commerce Pulse)
<b>Multimodal News Clips:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. light vehicle sales were a seasonally adjusted and annualized <b>17.2 million in December 2015</b>, down 4.9% from November. This was the lowest amount in the last six months. (Source: AAR)</li> <li>The 2015 holiday shopping season (Nov. 1 – Dec. 31) was strong for U.S. e-commerce retailers, with <b>revenue up 12.1%</b> over the same period in 2014. With strong revenue increases (12.1%) came a solid jump in orders, up 10.9% with the average order value up 1.1% (Source: Custora)</li> </ul>

## RAIL:

<b>U.S. Freight Rail Traffic</b>	Originations of carloads in December 2015 totaled 1,219,443, a <b>decrease of 15.6%</b> from December 2014. Weekly average total carloads in December 2015 were 243,889, <b>the lowest weekly average for any month since January 1988</b> . (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i>
<b>U.S. Intermodal Rail Traffic</b>	Intermodal rail traffic totaled 1,179,907 units in December 2015, <b>0.7% lower</b> , year-over-year. Year-over-year monthly intermodal volume <b>has fallen on U.S. railroads three months in a row, which hasn't happened since November 2009</b> . (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i>
<b>Railroad Fuel Price Index</b>	The index of average railroad fuel prices in November 2015 was 303.4, <b>down 5.3%</b> from the previous month and <b>41.7% lower</b> year-over-year. (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Average monthly price for gallons purchased by freight railroads; Includes federal excise taxes, transportation, and handling expenses)</i>
<b>Class 1 Railroad Employment</b>	Railroad employment in November 2015 <b>decreased 0.82% from the previous month</b> , to 164,241 employees total, the seventh straight month-to-month decline. The majority of losses are locomotive engineers and conductors. (Source: U.S. STB)
<b>Short Line Rail Traffic</b>	In November 2015, short line railroad shipments across North America <b>fell 13.7%</b> compared to the same month last year. A sampling of about 431 small railroads in the U.S. and Canada <b>loaded 502,118 railcars</b> and intermodal units during the month of November. (Source: RailConnect Index   GE Transportation)
<b>Railroad News Clips:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norfolk Southern announced that it is consolidating two of its divisions (Virginia and Pocahontas) and shutting down portions of one secondary line (West Virginia Secondary) as part of the company's ongoing drive to enhance operating efficiencies and support long term growth. (Source: Railway Age)</li> </ul>

# JANUARY LOGISTICS 2016 MARKET SNAPSHOT

## TRUCKING:

Trucking Volume	The ATA's seasonally adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage index <b>decreased 0.9% to 134.3</b> in November 2015. The index <b>increased 0.2%</b> from November 2014, which was the smallest year-over-year gain since February 2013. (Source: American Trucking Association   <a href="http://Trucking.org">Trucking.org</a> )
Truckload Freight	The spot market for truckload freight in December <b>increased 15%</b> compared to the previous month, and was <b>36% lower</b> year-over-year. Truck capacity <b>decreased 0.8%</b> for the month, and <b>increased 24%</b> year-over-year. (Source: DAT Trendlines   <a href="http://www.dat.com">www.dat.com</a> )
Diesel Prices	U.S. average diesel prices fell to <b>\$2.17 per gallon</b> last week. The U.S. average diesel price was <b>\$0.87 lower</b> than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the lower Atlantic states was <b>\$2.11 per gallon</b> . (Source: U.S. DOE) <i>(Reflects the costs and profits of the entire production and distribution chain.)</i>
Trucking Employment	The trucking industry workforce <b>increased by 5,300 employees to 1,460,200 employees total</b> in December. The trucking workforce <b>increased 1.32%</b> over the previous year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Trucking Earnings and Hours	The average earnings of truck transportation employees were \$22.59/hour in November 2015, <b>up 0.44%</b> from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 42.0 in November, <b>down 0.47%</b> from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Truck Orders	Preliminary data for heavy-duty Class 8 trucks net orders in North America increased to <b>27,800 units</b> in December 2015. December orders were <b>70% higher</b> than the previous month and <b>36% lower</b> than a year ago. (Source: FTR Associates   <a href="http://ftrassociates.com">ftrassociates.com</a> )
NAFTA Trade	Surface transport-related trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico totaled \$96.6 billion in October 2015, <b>decreasing 10.7%</b> year-over-year. October was the first month on record in which the total value of U.S.-Mexico freight flows exceeded U.S.-Canada freight flows. (Source: US DOT)
Trucking News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FMCSA's driver coercion rule, formally known as the "Prohibiting Coercion of Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers" will take effect January 29<sup>th</sup>. The rule adopts regulations that prohibit motor carriers, shippers, receivers, or transportation intermediaries from coercing drivers to operate commercial motor vehicles in violation of certain FMCSA provisions. (Source: Supply Chain 24/7)</li> <li>The validity of a rule proposed by the FMCSA that would increase the use of inspection data in making Safety Fitness Determinations for motor carriers has been challenged by a coalition of eight associations representing trucking interests. The group of stakeholders contends that the FMCSA plans to ignore the clear mandates of the FAST Act (the recently passed highway bill) when it opens a rulemaking this month that would change existing standards for determining the safety fitness of individual motor carriers. (Source: Trucking Info)</li> </ul>

## AIR FREIGHT:

Air Cargo Traffic	Global air freight traffic in November <b>decreased 1.2%</b> from one year ago, and <b>increased 0.9%</b> from the previous month. (Source: IATA.org) <i>(Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic.)</i>
Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic	In November, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported <b>53,841 metric tons</b> of cargo, a <b>4.0% decrease</b> from the previous month and a <b>6.43% increase</b> year-over-year. (Source: HJIA)
Air Freight Price Index	The East-West Air Freight Price Index <b>decreased 2.8</b> points in November to 99.2 points, <b>bringing an end to four consecutive months of rising prices</b> . (Source: Drewry) <i>(The Drewry East-West Air Freight Price Index is based on the average of rates (\$US per kg) for air freight services on 21 major East-West routes.)</i>
Jet Fuel Prices	As of January 1, 2016, the global average jet fuel price was \$47.4 per barrel; <b>down 13.3%</b> from the previous month, and <b>34.0% lower</b> year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org, <a href="http://platts.com">platts.com</a> ) <i>(The weekly index and price data shows the global average price paid at the refinery for aviation jet fuel)</i>
Air Freight News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worldwide sales of semiconductors reached \$28.9 billion during November 2015, a <b>decrease of 0.3%</b> from October 2015 and a <b>3.0% decrease</b> from November 2014. (Source: Semiconductor Industry Association)</li> </ul>

## OCEAN FREIGHT:

<b>Import Volumes</b>	In November, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled 1.48 million TEUs, a <b>5.0% decrease</b> from the previous month and a <b>6.0% increase</b> from the same month last year. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)
<b>Shanghai Containerized Freight Index</b>	The January 8 <sup>th</sup> SCFI comprehensive reading was <b>\$745.90 per FEU</b> ; <b>up 41.4%</b> from last month. The spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was <b>\$2,542 per FEU</b> , <b>up 68.7%</b> from the previous month. (Source: Shanghai Shipping Exchange   <a href="http://www1.chineseshipping.com.cn/en">www1.chineseshipping.com.cn/en</a> ) <i>(The Shanghai Containerized Freight Index is a weekly reported average export spot rate from Shanghai for 15 different trade lanes.)</i>
<b>Ocean Bulk Freight Rates</b>	The Baltic Dry Index <b>fell 20.0%</b> in December, ending at 478. The BDI has <b>decreased 13.18%</b> year-to-date. (Source: <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND">www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND</a> ) <i>(The Baltic Dry Index is an index that tracks and averages worldwide international shipping prices of various dry bulk cargoes.)</i>
<b>TSA Bunker Surcharges</b>	Between January 1 and March 31 2016, the bunker fuel surcharge will total <b>\$276 per FEU</b> for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and <b>\$525 per FEU</b> for shipments to the East coast and Gulf ports. (Source: Transpacific Stabilization Agreement) <i>(The Transpacific Stabilization Agreement is a research and discussion forum of major ocean container shipping lines that carry cargo from Asia to ports in the U.S.)</i>
<b>Port of Savannah</b>	Port of Savannah moved 284,123 TEUs in November 2015, a <b>4.7% increase</b> compared to November 2014 and an <b>11.5% decrease</b> from the previous month. (Source: GPA)
<b>Port of Brunswick</b>	The Georgia Ports Authority has approved \$12.75 million in spending for a 63-acre expansion of the Port of Brunswick's vehicle storage area. (Source: GPA)
<b>Ocean Freight Business News:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) said on December 21<sup>st</sup> that the expansion of the canal is 96% complete. A date for the expansion's inauguration is expected to be in the second quarter of 2016. The commercial opening date will be soon after the inauguration. (Source: Materials Handling &amp; Logistics)</li> </ul>

## WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

<b>Industrial Vacancy</b>	U.S. industrial vacancy declined to 6.7% in Q3, down from 6.8% in Q2 and 7.4% one year ago. Since peaking at 10.6% in Q1-Q3 2010, the vacancy rate has fallen for 20 consecutive quarters, and in 15 of those quarters, it has fallen by 20 or 30 basis points. (Source: NGKF)
<b>Warehouse Rent Rates</b>	In Q3 2015, warehouse and distribution rental rates in the U.S. ended at \$5.72/SF triple net, up 1.1% from the prior quarter and up 3.9% from the third quarter of 2014. Rental rates for warehouse space <b>averaged \$4.30/SF in Atlanta, up 12.86%</b> from the previous quarter. (Source: NGKF)
<b>Industrial Absorption</b>	Net absorption in the US during Q3 2015 totaled more than <b>42.6 million square feet, a 24% decrease from the previous quarter, and a 14.2% decrease from Q3 2014.</b> <i>(Source: NGKF) (Absorption is the net change in occupied space between two points in time. Positive absorption means that previously unoccupied space is being occupied.)</i>
<b>Warehouse Employment</b>	The warehousing industry workforce <b>increased by 3,200 employees</b> to 792,400 employees total in December. The warehouse workforce <b>increased 0.4%</b> from the previous month and <b>increased 6.0%</b> year-over-year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
<b>Warehouse Earnings and Hours</b>	The average earnings of warehousing & storage employees were \$18.47/hour in November 2015, <b>up 0.92%</b> from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 41.7 in November, <b>up 3.47%</b> from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
<b>Purchasing Managers Index</b>	The National PMI <b>fell to 48.2%</b> in December 2015, a <b>decrease of 0.4%</b> over the previous month. New orders <b>increased 0.3%</b> to 49.2%. Production <b>increased 0.6%</b> to 49.8%. (Source: Institute for Supply Management) <i>(The PMI combines data on new orders, inventory, production, supplier deliveries, and employment. A reading above 50 indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding.)</i>
<b>Purchasing Managers Index in Georgia</b>	Georgia's PMI <b>decreased 2.5 points</b> to 52.5 in December. New orders in Georgia <b>increased 2.5 points</b> to 52.5 and production <b>increased 0.2 points</b> to 52.5. Georgia's PMI is now <b>4.3 points above</b> the national PMI. (Source: Kennesaw State University) <i>(The PMI combines data on new orders, inventory, production, supplier deliveries, and employment. A reading above 50 indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding.)</i>

# JANUARY LOGISTICS 2016 MARKET SNAPSHOT

## W&D Business News:

- German-based LINDE + WIEMANN GmbH KG, a leading manufacturer of complex structural steel systems to automotive OEM's worldwide, will establish a U.S.-based assembly operation in Hart County. They will construct a 60,000 square foot facility and 3,500 square foot head office building in the initial phases of the project. (Source: Georgia.org)
- VXI Global Solutions, a business processing and information technology outsourcing services provider will open a call center in College Park, Georgia. The new facility will create 570 jobs for the community. (Source: Georgia.org)

## U.S. MARKET:

Gross Domestic Product	The U.S. GDP <b>increased 2.0%</b> in the third quarter of 2015 according to the third preliminary estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late December. (Source: US BEA)
U.S. Trade Deficit	The U.S. trade deficit <b>decreased 3.4%</b> in November to \$42.4 billion. Exports <b>decreased 1.0%</b> to \$182.2 billion and imports <b>decreased 1.49%</b> to \$224.6 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)
Consumer Confidence	The Consumer Confidence Index <b>increased to 96.5</b> in December 2015, <b>up 6.7%</b> from November. (Source: The Conference Board) <i>(The consumer confidence index is based on a monthly survey of 5,000 U.S. household. It is designed to gauge the financial health, spending power, and confidence of the average U.S. consumer.)</i>
Unemployment Rate	The unemployment rate in America <b>remained at 5.0%</b> in December 2015. A preliminary 292,000 net new jobs were created in December 2015, up from a revised 252,000 in November, and the <b>second best month in 2015</b> . (Source: US DOL)
Workforce Participation Rate	The workforce participation rate <b>increased 0.16% to 62.6</b> in December. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) <i>(The Workforce Participation Rate measures the share of Americans at least 16 years old who are either employed or actively looking for work)</i>
Leading Economic Index	The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. <b>increased 0.4%</b> in November to 124.6 (2004=100). The Index increased 0.6% in October and had no change in September. (Source: Conference Board) <i>(The LEI is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together create an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The LEI reveals patterns in economic data in a clearer and more convincing manner than any individual component alone.)</i>
Retail Sales	Retail and food service sales decreased in December to \$448.1 billion, <b>down 0.1%</b> from the previous month, and <b>up 2.2%</b> above December 2014. Non-store retailer sales were <b>up 6.3%</b> from last year. (Source: US Census)
Manufacturing & Trade Sales	Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled nearly <b>\$1.317 trillion</b> in October 2015, <b>down 0.2% from September and down 2.7% from October</b> of the previous year. (Source: US Census)
Manufacturing & Trade Inventory	Total value of inventory on hand is estimated at <b>\$1.814 trillion</b> in October, <b>virtually unchanged from September and up 2.0% from October of the previous year</b> . (Source: US Census)
Housing Starts	In November 2015, housing starts <b>increased 10.3%</b> from the previous month to an annual rate of 1,170,000 units. Starts for single-family homes were an annualized 768,000 in November 2015, the <b>highest level since January 2008</b> . The index of pending home sales (sales that haven't closed yet but contracts have been signed) was <b>106.9 in November 2015, down 0.9% from the previous month</b> . (Source: U.S. DOC)
Consumer & Producer Price Index	The consumer price index for all urban consumers <b>was unchanged</b> in November on a seasonally adjusted basis from the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the all items index <b>increased 0.5% before seasonal adjustment</b> . The producer price index for final demand <b>decreased 0.2%</b> in December from the previous month. Prices for final demand goods <b>decreased 0.7%</b> from the previous month. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**To sign-up to receive these free monthly snapshots, visit: [www.GeorgiaLogistics.com](http://www.GeorgiaLogistics.com)**

For more information about the **Logistics Market Snapshot** or the many other resources and activities of the **Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics** please contact:  
**Jannine Miller, Director | [JMiller@georgia.org](mailto:JMiller@georgia.org) | 912.966.7867**